



Ministry  
of Justice

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Peter Knight  
Chair, Prison Service Pay Review Body  
Office of Manpower Economics  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
London  
WC1B 4AD

Our ref: 13621

1<sup>st</sup> September 2014

Dear Mr Knight,

#### **THE PRISON SERVICE PAY REVIEW BODY (PSPRB) - 2015/16 PAY ROUND**

I am writing firstly to introduce myself as the new minister with responsibility for public sector prisons and to express how much I am looking forward to working with the PSPRB on this and future pay rounds. Secondly, I am writing to commission the PSPRB process for the 2015/16 pay round. I am aware of the valuable work that you and your colleagues perform and the expert and independent view that is given by the PSPRB on the important issue of prison service pay within your remit group. I, and the government, am grateful for your continued commitment to this work.

In line with the government's previous commitment, I do not consider that specific circumstances exist this year as to require a formal remit letter.

I do, however, understand that the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (CST) wrote to you and all other pay review body Chairs on 29 July 2014 to clarify the government's approach to public sector pay, which, amongst other things, reiterates the 2013 budget announcement that public sector pay awards will continue to average at up to 1 per cent in 2015-16. In accordance with this letter, review bodies will want to consider what awards are justified within the bounds of pay restraint and, in doing so, may wish to consider the CST's comments on recruitment and retention issues and whether there is a case for targeting pay to address these.

This year's evidence will seek to consider the current pay and reward arrangements for prison service staff against comparable labour markets, and to build upon pay reform proposals that have, on the whole, been endorsed by the review body over the past three years. Our evidence will seek to enable the review body to review the full package affecting all staff within your remit group, within the context of our broader government pay policy for public sector workers.

I would be grateful if your recommendations could be forwarded by 16 February 2015.

I am copying this letter to Michael Spurr in NOMS and to representatives of the POA, PGA and PCS.

*Yours Sincerely,  
Andrew Selous*

**ANDREW SELOUS**